

National monitoring of unlawful violence in police in 2020

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The report contains the results of the research of the spread of torture and ill-treatment in police which covers the scale, causes and consequences of these phenomena in Ukraine. The topic of gender-based violence and discrimination against women is examined separately. The work provides the results of the 2020 survey of the population of Ukraine, as well as police officers.

The report will be useful for the specialists in the field of law enforcement, journalists, public figures, lawyers, representatives of international organizations and anyone interested in human rights and reforms in Ukraine.

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INTRODUCTION

The report proposed to your attention is a result of the next stage of national monitoring (2004–2020). The report is dedicated to the analysis of the results of a sociological research:

it provides a comparative analysis of opinions of ordinary citizens and police officers on the scale of spread of unlawful violence in police activity; compares the data for 2004–2020; analyzes the attitude towards the problem of unlawful violence in police and its admissibility; studies the opinion of Ukrainians on the dynamics of change in this area in recent years, the causes of unlawful violence and possible ways of improvement of the situation. For the first time it examines the gender-based aspect of unlawful violence and the problem of spread of discrimination of women in the police.

The publication also provides the specific recommendations for the prevention of unlawful violence in the police through institutional change in the activity, making changes to the departmental regulatory framework, wider public involvement in the monitoring of observance of human rights by police officers.

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We thank **Yevhen Zakharov** (Kharkiv Human Rights Protection Group), whose efforts over the years have helped to improve the system for monitoring unlawful police violence and help combat torture in the country in general.

We also thank the management of the **National Police** for sincere and high quality organizational assistance in conducting a survey of police officers.

Special thanks to First Deputy Chief of the Patrol Police Department, **Oleksiy Biloshytskiy**, for a high level in the organization of the poll of patrol police officers.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Researching the spread of tortures and ill-treatment in the police is a difficult task, since those phenomena are latent. That is why the work group sought to obtain maximum information from all possible sources, which allowed to track the problem since 2004 as well as subject it to a deep analysis by comparing various opinions on the same phenomenon. To do this we used the following methods of monitoring and information collecting:

- *survey of the population of five regions of Ukraine (3 000 persons in Kyiv, Kharkiv, Lviv, Vinnitsya and Odesa regions) by the method of structured interview at the place of residence of the respondent;*

- *survey of 2 120 police officers by the method of questionnaires using original tools.*

Rationale for the sample of the population

The survey was conducted among the residents of Ukraine aged 16 and older on a four-stage probability sample at each stage. The research implemented route sampling with conducting the survey at the place of residence of the respondents.

On the **first stage** of sampling we chose the regions of Ukraine that represent the central, eastern, western and southern regions of the country. As a result we interviewed the residents of Kyiv, Kharkiv, Lviv, Vinnitsya and Odesa regions.

On the **second stage** of sampling we conducted the randomized selection of settlements of various types. For the survey we selected the regional centers, cities, towns and villages.

On the **third stage** we randomly selected the addresses for the starting points of the routes for the survey.

On the **fourth stage** of the sampling (selection of the respondents in households) we used the probabilistic selection procedure by the method of “the closest birthday in the family”.

According to the requirements of the depth of statistical analysis of the collected data the size of the sample was set at 3 000 persons. At the same time, the shares of the survey's participants living in different oblasts and settlements of different types are determined on the basis of state statistics.

Statistical errors with probability 95 % do not exceed:

- 1,96 % — for the indicators close to 50 %;
- 1,69 % — for the indicators close to 25 % or 75 %;
- 1,18 % — for the indicators close to 10 % or 90 %;
- 0,85 % — for the indicators close to 5 % or 95 %;
- 0,39 % — for the indicators close to 1 % or 99 %.¹

The parameters of the sample generally reflect the general population model and meet the requirements of representativeness which allows to extend the findings of the

¹ Data on statistical errors are given without taking into account the design effect of the sample.

research to all residents of Ukraine aged 16 and older and to the general population of police officers of the relevant units.

Rationale for the sample of the police officers

The sample of police officers was proportionally stratified on a territorial basis (Oblasts and Kyiv city), on the basis of PPU units (criminal police, patrol police, preventive activity). The sample also recreates the gender content of the police (keeping the proportions of the number of men and women). In total we interviewed 2 120 police officers.

The interviewing of the officers of the National Police of Ukraine was conducted by the methods of group questionnaire and survey with the use of online forms. The sample can be considered the one representing the employees of the National Police of Ukraine in general. The statistical error with the probability of 0,95 does not exceed 3,0% for the data close to 50%, 2,6% — for the data close to 25% or 75% and 1,8% — for the data close to 10% or 90%.

The data of the research was mathematically processed using a package of statistical programs SPSS.

EFFICIENCY OF POLICE ACTIVITY AND EVALUATION OF THE REFORM

The introduction of the new methods of assessment of efficiency of police activity remains the most important of the unsolved tasks of the reform. The transfer to the new model of assessment of police work should replace the outdated system of the “indicators” which leads to unlawful violence. A new level of trust in the police should also be an important result of the creation of a new evaluation system — independent, external, non-systemic, based on community opinion.

The work of public organizations in Ukraine, which was conducted in this direction since the middle 2000s, finally led to a limited success — the emergence of paragraph 3 of Article 11 of the Law of Ukraine “On National Police”. The paragraph **declares** that *“the level of public confidence in the police is the main criterion of assessment of the efficiency of the activity of police bodies and units”*. However, unfortunately, this did not become the final victory. Despite the fact that before 2015 there had already existed dozens of national researches in this field and the prepared tools, the development of the “Procedure for assessment of the level of public confidence in the National Police” took three more years.

In 2018 the method of assessment of police activity with the help of study of the public opinion was almost institutionalized — the result of the national assessment was heard at the board of Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine, then current Chief of the National Police noted several times that in the future he intended to actively get rid of the indicators. However, as it often happens in Ukraine, the replacement of the head of an institute destroys most of the projects supported by the previous Head, and the new leaders have to start over.

Of course, this has a negative effect on the moods and feelings of the police officers themselves. They also had their expectations from the reform and hoped for positive changes in their activity. But later, like the society, they were disappointed and demotivated (Table 1).

Table 1
Evaluation of the success of the reform by the police officers (in %)

	Successful	Unsuccessful	The reform is not finished	The reform has not started
Police	13,9	58,5	26,0	1,6
Patrol police	32,0	37,6	28,8	1,6

Thus, according to the survey, the police reform is considered successful by every third patrol policeman (32%) and only by 13,9% of the representatives of other police units. At the same time the number of persons that believe the reform to be a failure is greater among the police in general (58,5%), as well as among the patrol policemen (37,7%). Every fourth respondent believes that the reform is not finished yet.

An important shortcoming of the “reform” is that the everyday activity of a police officer, like dozens of years ago, is subject to the need to provide the indicators to the administration and show the tendencies which in some cases contradict the real state of affairs. And although most chiefs and regular police officers already understand that the current system of evaluation of the activity is obsolete, they do not see the possibility to go beyond the internal reporting, and that closes the circle. Unfortunately, on the highest level the very idea of a possibility of independent evaluation of the police

activity with the help of open procedure causes many worries. This leads to a number of manipulations — from the constant manipulative use of data of various researches to conducting questionable assessments at the expense of the budget².

How does the population of Ukraine evaluate the police activity today? Is it considered efficient? We received the answer thanks to the block of questions included in the research. The results of the research evidence that, evaluating the police in general, most respondents see it as inefficient — this was indicated by 56,2% respondents. It should be noted that compared to the national survey of 2018, the number of people dissatisfied with the police has further increased (+ 3,5%) (figure 1).

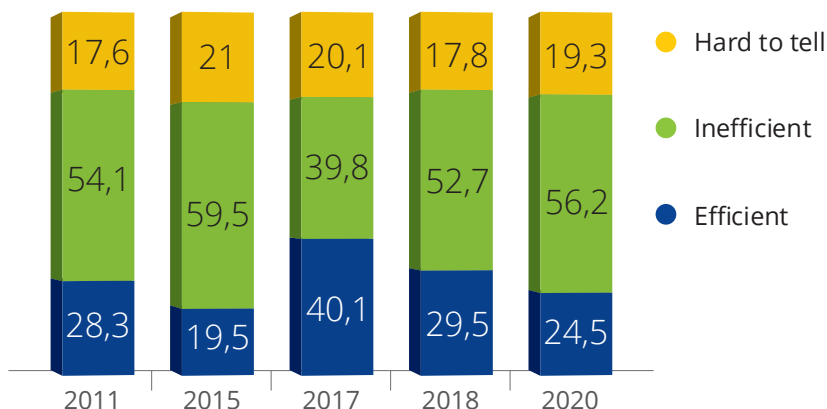


Figure 1. Assessment of the efficiency of activity of Ukrainian police through the eyes of the population (comparison of the surveys of 2011–2020; in %)

At the same time, the number of people who consider the work of the National Police efficient, has also changed. Thus, while in 2018 their share constituted 29,5 %, by 2020 the number decreased by 5 % and constituted 24,5 %.

² Kobzin D. «This «trust» to the police was broken. Bring another one» // Ukrainska pravda.— <https://www.pravda.com.ua/rus/columns/2020/02/18/7240864/>

Traditionally the respondents are a bit more approving of their local police. However, the number of people who consider the work of the local police inefficient, constituted 48,9%. The number of people who consider the local police efficient decreased: in 2018 they constituted 33,7%, and in 2020–30,6% (figure 2).

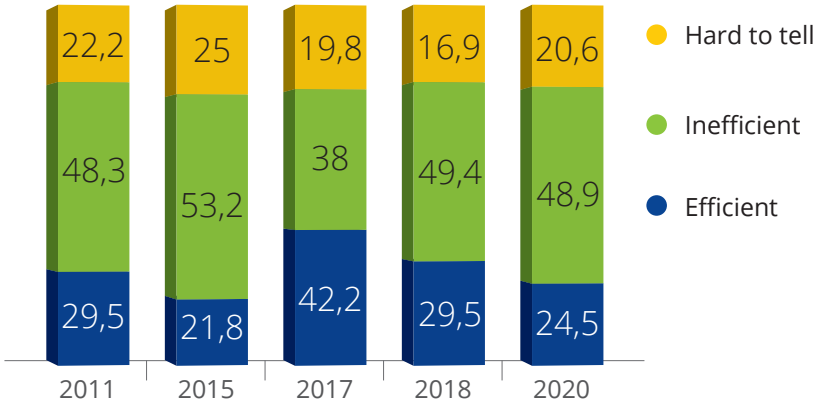


Figure 2. Assessment of the efficiency of activity of the local police through the eyes of the population (comparison of the surveys of 2011–2020; in %)

According to what sources of information do the respondents form their opinion on the work of the police? The survey shows that although the respondents most often based their evaluation on the information received from media (75,2%), and during the communication with friends and acquaintances (39,1%), the role of the Internet increases significantly (figure 3). Thus, in three years the number of people who rely on the data from Internet, developing their opinion on the work of the police, increased two and a half times — to 48,2%. The Internet took second place among the sources, far ahead of the answer “personal experience”, relied on only by 11,1% respondents.

The presented data show the failure of the communication strategy of the National Police, as well as the failure of realization of the principle of community policing — despite the number of

projects implemented by the donors, NPO and declarations of the management an ordinary citizen during a year does not contact the police, does not communicate with its representatives and is forced to be content with information from online sources.

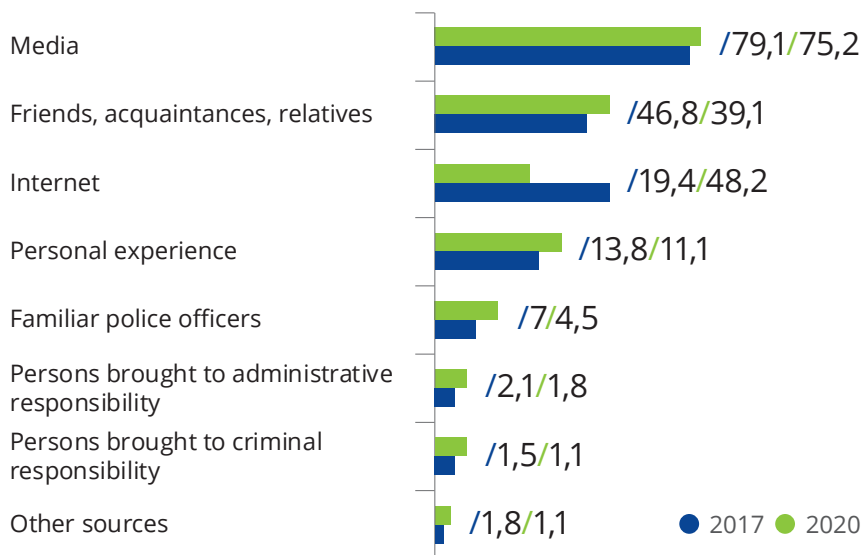


Figure 3. Sources of information of the respondents on the efficiency of the police (in %)

Another important element of efficiency of the police is the extent to which it was possible to change the system of organization of work according to which the rights of the officers were constantly violated, during the reform which lasts for more than five years. For years it remained an important factor which later influenced the attitude of the police to the citizens and the number of violations of human rights: a police officer whose rights were violated does not see any value in the rights of regular citizens and is not in a hurry to observe them.

The research showed, that, like ten years ago, the rights of the police officers to proper work conditions are constantly violated. The survey fixed the overwork, the lack

of compensation for overwork and generally low wages. Thus, almost half of the patrol police officers works around 56 hours a week, among other police officers the share is 18,6%. 4,6% of patrol police officers and 17,5% of other policemen work for 98 hours, that is, 14 hours a day (figure 4).

At the same time only 7,8% of the patrol officers and 2,5% of other police officers believe that they do not work overtime. Most of the respondents are not compensated for overworking (patrol officers — 89,7%, other police officers — 95,4%) (figure 5).

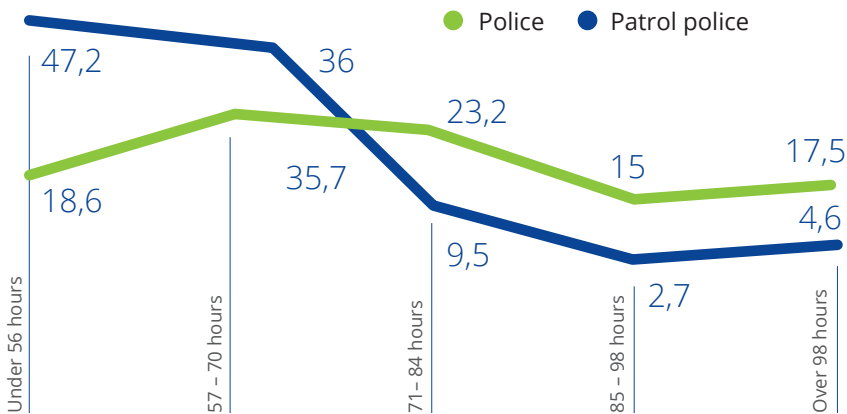


Figure 4. The number of work hours a week for the police officers (in %)

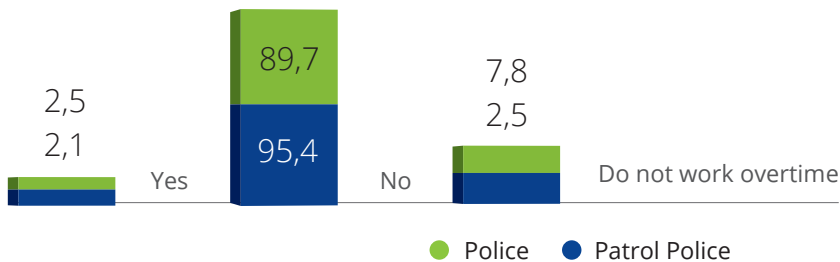


Figure 5. Are the police officers compensated for the overwork (in %)

Most of all interviewed police officers in one way or another do not believe their wages sufficient to support a normal level of living (patrol officers — 93,8%, other police officers — 93,9%) (figure 6). Only 1,8% of patrol officers and 1,3% of the police officers are absolutely certain that they receive sufficient wages.

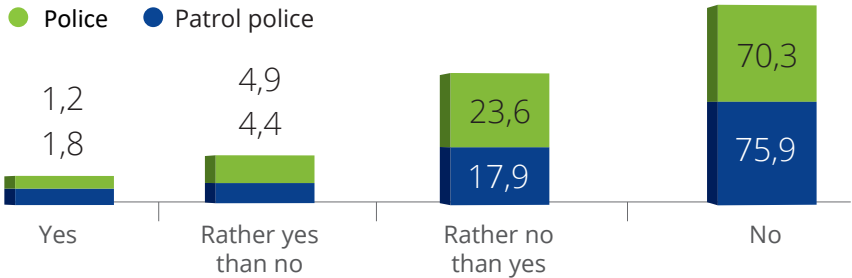


Figure 6. The police officers' assessment of their wages as sufficient to support a normal level of living (in %)

Most police officers do not have their own residence (patrol officers — 62,6%, other police officers — 54,9%) (figure 7). 17,5% of the patrol police officers and 19,2% of other police officers live with their relatives and require their own residence. Only every fifth respondent has their own apartments or house (patrol officers — 18%, other police officers — 20,6%).

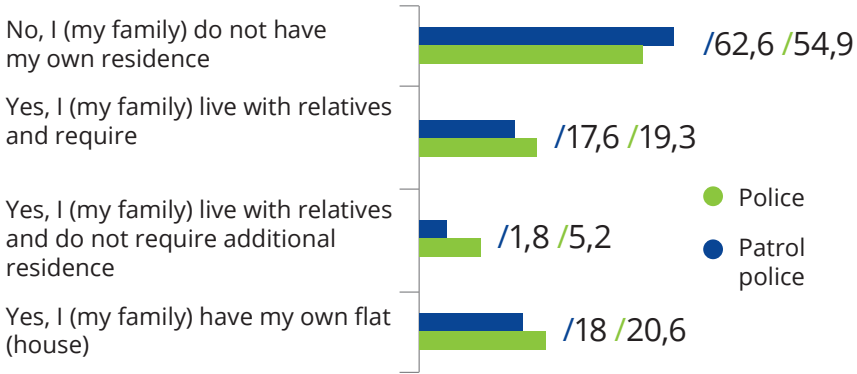


Figure 7. Police officers having their own residence (in %)

Around a third part of all police officers assess their financial condition as below average, that is, it is sufficient to live, but not to obtain certain items (furniture, refrigerator etc) (patrol officers — 36,3%, other police officers — 33,7%) (figure 8). Every tenth police officer barely makes ends meet, sometimes they do not have enough money for food (patrol officers — 10,6%, other police officers — 9,6%). There are a bit more patrol officers among those who have enough money for food but have difficulty obtaining clothes or footwear (38,2%), than among other police officers (27,4%).

	Police	Patrol police	
Barely making ends meet, sometimes not enough for food	9,6	10,6	
Sufficient for food, but obtaining clothes or footwear is difficult	27,4	38,2	
Sufficient for living, but not for valuable items (furniture, refrigerator etc)	33,7	36,3	
There are no financial difficulties except the especially expensive goods (house, expensive car etc)	10	7,1	
No financial difficulties, we can obtain almost everything	0,6	0,5	
Refused to answer	18,7	7,3	

Figure 8. Financial condition of the families of the police officers (in %)

The above-mentioned work conditions force most of the police officers to think of retirement, in particular, every fifth police officer plans to resign within a year (patrol officers — 22,3%, other police officers — 17,8%) (figure. 9). 19,6% of the patrol officers and 22,7% of other police officers are not going to resign.

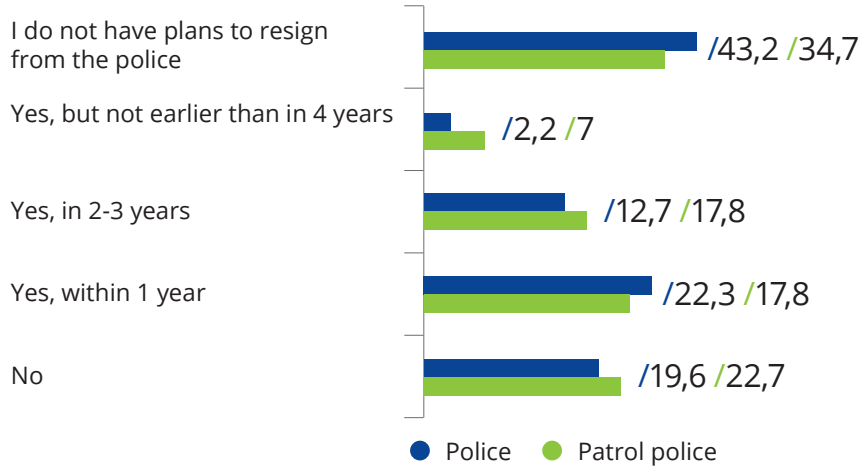


Figure 9. Plans of the police officers concerning the resignation (in %)

ASSESSMENT OF THE SCALE OF UNLAWFUL USE OF FORCE IN UKRAINIAN POLICE IN 2020

It should be noted that in 2020 there were no significant changes in the work of police: the approaches, criteria of evaluation of efficiency, procedures for internal investigations and reactions to the complaints of the citizens remained the same as before. Moreover, despite the loud scandals related to unlawful violence in police, the work on the change of the obsolete system of assessment of police activity started before and the use of surveys of the opinions of the public was in fact terminated. The centralized structure of the MIA which includes the National Police, National Guard, State Migration Service, State Border Service and State Emergency Service has also remained without significant changes.

However, the most important indicator of the absence of changes, as before, is the preservation of the decades-old system of collection and analysis of the complaints about the actions of the police officers and the system of assessment of lawfulness in the police in general. Still a significant part of the complaints comes directly to the police and is examined there. Even after the creation of the State Bureau of Investigations which is procedurally subordinate to Prosecutor General's Office, most of the data about the unlawful violence in the police is still assessed by the police itself and is only afterwards transferred to other law-enforcement bodies, without the participation of non-government institutions and the victims themselves. Unfortunately, this contributes to the recreation of a mechanism which was numerous assessed in the decisions of the European Court for Human Rights, reports of international organizations and our researches

as an inefficient one. The closed system of collection and investigation of the complaints also influences the number of such reports — Even while addressing a medical institutions with the signs of a beating or torture the victims would have to deal with police officers. That is why the victims of torture or violence prefer not to go anywhere. As before, this leads to the situation in which the real scale of violence in police remains hidden from the official statistics — both police and medical, the data of which cannot be considered objective and cannot be relied on for assessment of the real scale of violence.

Given the circumstances and the impossibility to rely on the data from other sources, the national sociological survey remains the only method that allows to find the real scale of such latent phenomenon as unlawful violence in the police in Ukraine. Thanks to the use of research tools developed over the years we have a possibility to not only assess the number of people who personally became the victims of unlawful violence by the police officers during the year, but also compare the data with the previous years.

Assessing the general tendencies of unlawful violence (beating, tortures, intimidation) in the police, most of the respondents (51,8%) pointed out that they believed such cases to be widespread. Every ninth (11,4%) believes that the violence in the police is very widespread. The total number of people who indicated that unlawful violence in the police is not widespread constituted 22,7% (figure 10).

However, when the issue concerned the local police, there are a bit fewer respondents who believed that unlawful violence is an ordinary practice for it — 29%.

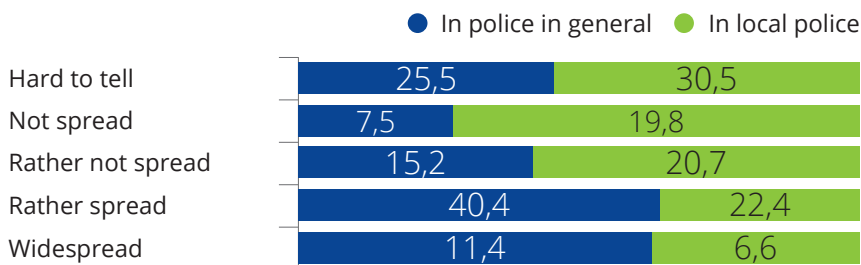


Figure 10. The opinion of the citizens about the spread of unlawful violence in the police (in %)

At the same time the police officers have a completely different opinion about the spread of unlawful violence. Thus, it is considered “very spread” by less than one percent of the police officers, and the number of police officers that believe it to be rather spread does not exceed 5% (figure 11). Over a half of police officers believe that unlawful violence in police is not spread at all.

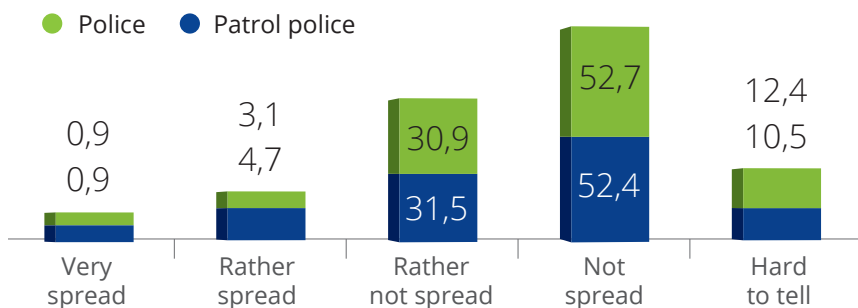


Figure 11. The opinion of the police officers concerning the spread of unlawful violence in the police (in %)

Speaking about the unlawful violence in the police, 22% of the interviewed citizens indicated that, in their opinion, its scale in Ukraine increased during a year (figure 12). A third of the respondents (32,2%) stated that the scale of police violence remained on the same level, and 11,7% — that it decreased. For 34,1% of the respondents it was hard to evaluate the tendencies.

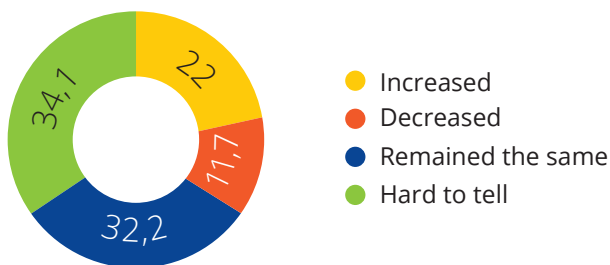


Figure 12. The distribution of answers of the citizens to the question “How did the number of cases of unlawful violence and torture in the police change within the recent 12 months?” (in %)

The police officers have a separate opinion concerning this question (figure 13). Thus, most police officers (every other one) point that during the recent 12 the scale of violence in the police decreased, and every fourth could not assess it. Around 13% of the interviewed police officers stated that the level of unlawful violence remained the same as before.

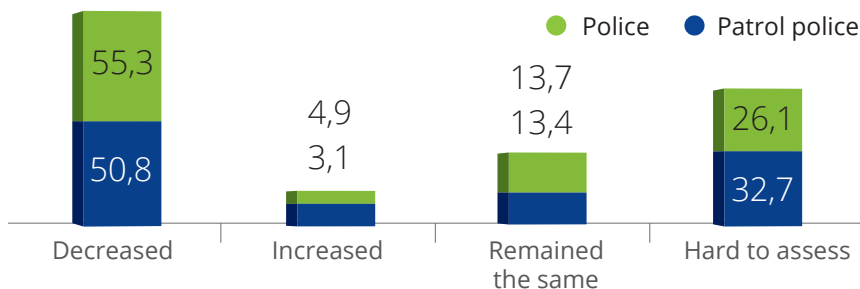


Figure 13. Distribution of answers of police officers to the question “How did the number of cases of unlawful violence and torture in the police change within the recent 12 months?” (in %)

According to the results of 2020 survey 2% of the citizens pointed out that in 12 months they became the victims of beating by the police or police officers subjected them to suffering or torture. Thus, after a small decrease of the number of such cases in 2018 the scale of this phenomenon returned to the indicators of 2017.

On each stage of the monitoring we calculate the estimated number of victims in order to assess the scale and dynamics of unlawful violence in the police. Like during the survey of the past periods, it was conducted with the help of extrapolation of research results to all adult population of Ukraine³. Thus, during the research we received the evaluation data of the scale of unlawful violence in the police on the territories not covered by the armed conflict — for the 12 months there were around 698 000 such cases (table 2, figure 14).

Таблиця 2

Оціночна загальна кількість жертв незаконного фізичного насильства в поліції України в період 2004–2020 рр.

Year	Number of victims (%)	Estimated number of victims (persons)
2004	2,73	1 026 616
2004–2009	3,50	1 319 500
2010	2,10	791 700
2011	2,60	980 200
2015	1,30	409 080
2017	2,0	641 326
2018	1,7	546 686
2020	2,0	698 926

3 For that the percent of victims of unlawful violence in the police is taken from the total number of adult population of Ukraine and the data is adjusted not taken into account AR Crimea, uncontrolled territories in Donetsk and Luhansk regions (34 946 300 persons in June 2020 according to State Statistics Service of Ukraine, <http://www.ukrstat.gov.ua/>)



Figure 14. Estimated number of victims of unlawful physical violence in Ukrainian police in 2004–2020 (in thousands of cases)

The number of cases of beating, infliction of injuries **during the arrest** has also increased and constituted, accordingly, 559 140 (table 3, figure 15).

Table 3

Estimated number of victims of beating, infliction of injuries during the arrest by the police in the period of 2004–2020.

Year	Number of victims (%)	Estimated number of victims
2004	2,73	1 026 616
2004–2009	1,6	604 433
2010	1,3	491 102
2011	1,6	604 433
2015	0,5	157 338
2017	1,5	480 979
2018	1,3	418 050
2020	1,6	559 140

An indictment was sent to court concerning an inspector from the Department of Patrol Police of Kyiv of Patrol Police Department. He is accused of abuse of power or official authority accompanied with violence with the use of weapons or special means (pt. 2 of Art. 365 of CC of Ukraine). According to the investigation, on 27 March 2020 on the section of the highway "Kyiv-Chernihiv" the law-enforcement officer unreasonably applied force and special means to a lawyer and his father and that lead to infliction of injuries.

According to the site of the State Bureau of Investigations

The pre-trial investigation established that on 9 June 2019 a policeman, being on an assignment to protect public order as a part of car patrol reaction group of patrol police, with the help of flashing beacons stopped an Opel car in which there were three citizens. Later the law-enforcement officer unreasonably used force to two citizens which resulted in minor injuries. To the third citizen he used the special coercion means (handcuffs) without apparent reasons.

According to the site of the State Bureau of Investigations

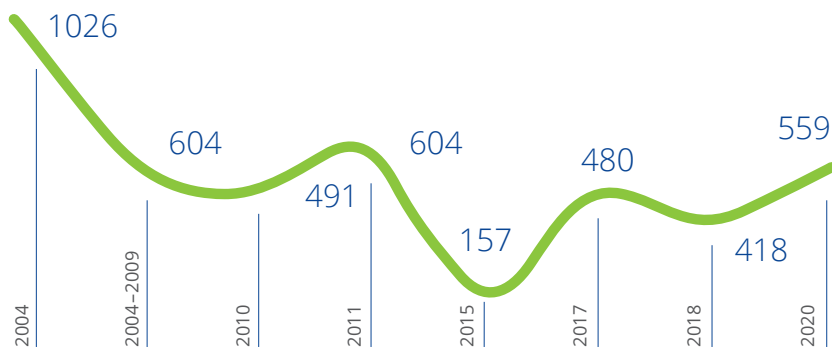


Figure 15. Estimated number of victims of beating, infliction of injuries during the arrest by the police in 2004-2020 (in thousands of cases)

As for the use of unlawful violence during the investigation, the changes were more significant: the estimated number

of victims doubled and constituted 419 355 cases (table 4, figure 16).

Table 4

Estimated number of victims of beating, infliction of injuries during the investigation in Ukrainian police in 2004–2020

Year	Number of victims (%)	Estimated number of victims
2004	0,94	355 293
2004–2009	1,3	491 102
2010	0,9	330 300
2011	0,8	293 600
2015	0,6	188 806
2017	1,2	384 783
2018	0,6	192 950
2020	1,2	419 355

The investigation established that on 10 January 2018 a law-enforcement officer left after the call to the village of Velyka Rishnivka concerning the breaking into the house of a citizen and the theft of property. In order to verify the fact the policeman visited the man whom the owner of the house suspected of theft. Knowing for sure that the relevant information has not been entered to Unified Register of Pre-Trial Investigations and that the pre-trial investigation has not started, the operative unlawfully entered the fenced yard and the house with the aim of conducting a search. By beating the man with rubber club the policeman forced the man to write the receipt of commitment and provide explanations

concerning the circumstances of the criminal offense. As a result the victim received minor and medium severity injuries.

According to the site of the State Bureau of Investigations



Figure 16. Estimated number of victims of beating and infliction of injuries during the investigation in Ukrainian police in 2004–2020 (in thousands of cases)

The statistics of the number of cases of torture and inhuman treatment during the investigation shows that their number has actually stabilized during the fifteen-year period and constitutes 0,2–0,3%. Also, according to the data, since the beginning of the monitoring (2004) the number of victims of torture periodically decreases, and then increases again. At the same time, every year almost 100 000 people are subject to various tortures (ranging between the infliction of pain and the torture by thirst or non-provision of medical assistance) in police (table 5, figure 17).

In June 2020 the police officers, while investigating the death of a resident of Zhovti Vody from the explosion of a shell, invited a citizen who at a time of explosion was near

the place of events to visit the police department. In the premises of the police department the law-enforcement officers forced the citizen to sit on a chair and started “beating” the confession of intentional murder out of him. The latter categorically denied his involvement in the events and maintained that he was only a witness of the tragedy. Forcing him to admit guilt, the police officers hit the victim 20 times which resulted in numerous injuries, that according to the forensic examinations were bodily injuries of medium severity.

According to the site of the State Bureau of Investigations

Table 5

Estimated number of victims of tortures during the investigation in Ukrainian police in 2004–2020

Year	Number of victims (%)	Estimated number of victims
2004	0,25	93498
2004–2009	0,3	113331
2010	0,2	75400
2011	0,3	113331
2015	0,2	62935
2017	0,3	96195
2018	0,2	64300
2020	0,3	104838

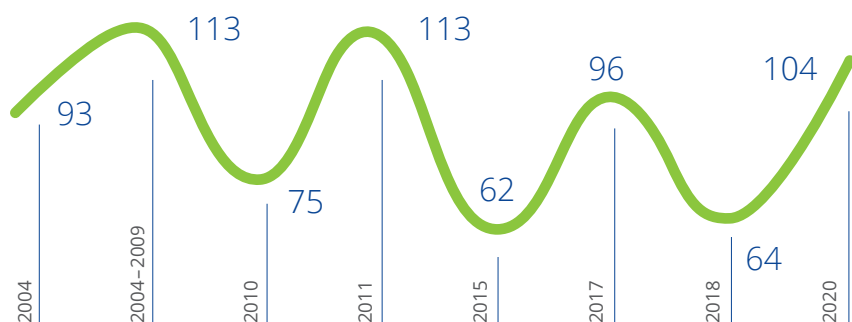


Figure 17. Estimated number of victims of tortures during the in Ukrainian police in 2004–2020 (in thousands of cases)

It should be noted separately that the number of victims of psychological torture in police which usually accompanies the physical torture, but the results of which may be more severe, remains significant. Thus, among those that were victims of unlawful actions of the police in 2020, 50,8% were threatened or intimidated, 25,4% were blackmailed, and 42,4% were subjected to insults and degrading treatment. On the scale of the country the number of victims constitutes hundreds of thousands of people during a year and it increased significantly comparing to 2017 (table 6).

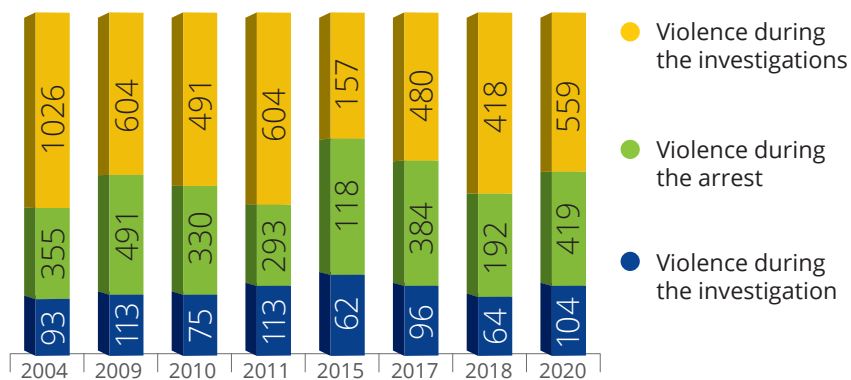


Figure 18. Tendencies of the spread of unlawful violence and torture in police in 16 years (2004–2020) (in thousands of cases)

Table 6

Estimated number of victims of psychological torture in Ukrainian police in 2004–2020

Year	THE NUMBER OF VICTIMS (IN % AND ESTIMATED NUMBER)		
	Blackmail	Intimidation, threats, including the ones involving the relatives	Degrading treatment
2004	0,7 % (261 795)	1,3 % (486 191)	0,6 % (523 590)
2004–2009	1,1 % (415 547)	1,7 % (642 210)	1,9 % (717 764)
2010	0,6 % (226 200)	0,6 % (226 200)	0,3 % (113 100)
2011	1,1 % (415 547)	1,4 % (527 800)	1,6 % (603 200)
2015	0,4 % (125 870)	0,2 % (62 935)	0,3 % (94 403)
2017	0,3 % (96 195)	0,5 % (160 326)	0,8 % (256 522)
2020	0,5 % (174 700)	1,0 % (349 463)	0,8 % (279 500)

During the research the respondents were asked if their friends or acquaintances were subjected to intentional beating, bullying or torture by the police officers in the recent 12 months. 7,1% of the respondents said that their friends were subjected to such treatment which in absolute numbers in the sample constituted 211 people. 2,3% (69 persons) said that they knew about one such case, and 4,8% (149 persons) — about several.

Almost half of them (49,8%) stated that their acquaintances or friends were beaten or bullied during the arrest, and 43,1% — during the investigation. 19,8% for a long time were held in the places unfit for that, and 10,5% did not receive medical assistance. Intimidation and threats were used to 45,7%; 40,5% were subject to insults and degrading treatment.

These data are partially confirmed by the results of the interviewing of the police officers themselves. Thus, 40 police officers from among those who were in the sample, stated that during 12 there were numerous beatings and cases of infliction of suffering and torture, and 78 — that they only occurred once (table 7). The police officers who were witnesses of the ill-treatment said that most often the victims are beaten, subjected to bodily injuries, insults and degrading treatment, (table 8).

Table 7

Number of cases of beating, tortures or inflicting suffering on the citizens by the police in 12 months, witnessed by the police officers (the number of cases among the interviewed persons)

	Yes, it happened numerously	Yes, it happened once
Police	12	24
Patrol police	28	54
TOTAL	40	78

Table 8

Distribution of answers of the police officers to the question "Which kinds of unlawful physical or psychological violence and ill-treatment do you believe the most widespread in the police ?" (in %)

	Police	Patrol police
Beatings, infliction of bodily injuries	12,6	57,5
Shots from firearms with the aim of intimidating or injuring	2,3	—
The overuse of special means (handcuffing for more than 2 hours; beating with the club on the head, chest or abdomen)	5,0	17,5
Long holding in the places unsuitable for it	7,7	16,3
Non-provision of medical assistance	0,5	6,3
Deprivation of the opportunity to relieve the natural needs	1,8	8,8
Sleep deprivation	2,3	1,3
Sexual harassment or threat of sexual harassment	1,4	—
Appalling holding conditions (heat / cold in the cell, overcrowding, the lack of water, toilet)	1,8	6,3
Intimidation, threats, in particular concerning the relatives or friends	7,2	12,5
Insults, degrading treatment	7,2	46,3

3 GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND DISCRIMINATION OF WOMEN

In the night between 23 and 24 May 2020 the operatives from Kaharlyk PD of Kyiv region in their office tortured a woman, who was called to the police department as a witness. They put a gas mask on her head, handcuffed her and shot her guns over her head. After that she was raped several times. In addition to that, the law-enforcement officers applied physical violence to the man who at the time was in the police department. Threatening to rape the victim, the law-enforcement officers forced him to kneel, beat him on the head with clubs, put a gas mask on his head and shot their guns over his head. As a result of those actions the victim received fractured ribs and nose.

According to the site of the State Bureau of Investigations

On 1 February 2020 around midnight an assistant of the on-duty officer of Vilshansk police department in Kirovograd region, being at the wheel of his own car in a state of intoxication, offered a girl to give her a ride home. Instead he drove onto a dirt road where he stopped his vehicle. After that he punched the girl several times in the head and body, dragged her from his car and attempted to rape her.

According to the site of the State Bureau of Investigations

The events in Kaharlyk also drew the society's attention to another important aspect of unlawful violence in the police — violence towards women. Despite the loud declarations by the management of the National Police concerning the development of the gender equality, holding dozens of trainings and conferences, even the creation of a special union — the Ukrainian Association of Women in Law-Enforcement (UAWLE), the police remains a highly centralized institution, built on militaristic

principles, in which most of the important offices are held by men and in which there is a traditional cult of power. All of this creates additional risks for women, and it not only concerns the women who contact the police as suspects or witnesses, but also the female law-enforcement officers. During the survey among the respondents we interviewed 1 616 women and found 110 cases (6,8%) when they were subjected to gender-based violence by the police officers in some way.

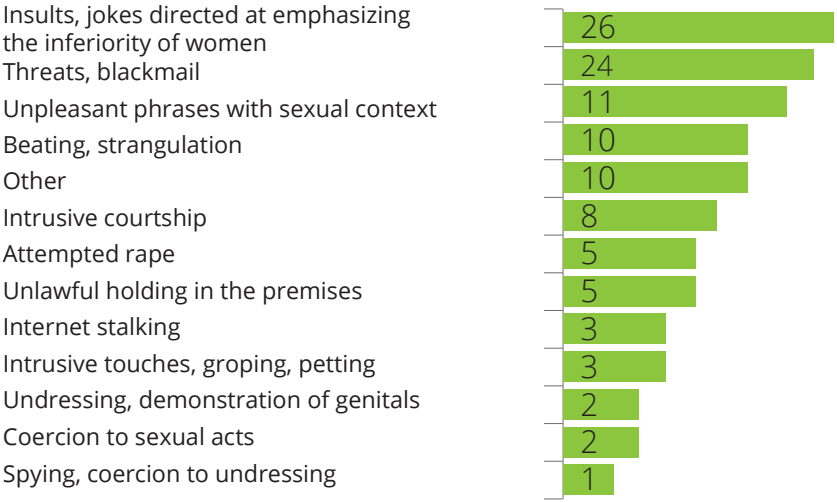


Figure 19. Kinds of violence the women were subjected to during the contacts with the police (in absolute terms)

During the arrest by the patrol police officers of Kremenchuk city a woman was loudly shouting about the painful sensations, as well as emphasized that she had a little child at home. It was all filmed, and the video was published in social networks. In addition to that, the police officers used special means — tear gas, to the neighbor of the arrested woman, who asked to release the arrested woman.

According to the site of State Bureau of Investigations

Most often those were the insults, jokes, directed at emphasizing the inferiority of women (26 cases), threats and blackmail (24 cases) (figure 19). However, the impunity always gradually leads to more: during the research we also found women who were subjected to beating and strangulation by the police officers (10 cases), unlawful holding in the premises (5 cases), intrusive courtship (8 cases), coercion to undressing and attempted rape.

The investigation established that a minor girl met the inspector of the sector of juvenile prevention of Tair police department in Odesa in late January 2020, when her mother went to the police with application about the disappearance of her daughter after another conflict. On 11 February 2020 a police officer forced the minor to follow him home where he raped her, and then took her to a public transport stop. In a few days the victim decided to tell her teacher about the crimes, he persuaded her to address the law-enforcement officers.

According to the site of the State Bureau of Investigations

We have received even more amazing data during the survey of male and female police officers. They pointed out the numerous incidents when their female relatives or friends became victims of gender-based violence by their fellow police officers. The officers that were in the sample indicated 218 pf such cases, but it is apparent that the state of this phenomenon is much greater (Table 9). Among the most spread kinds of violence and discrimination there were stated such kinds as verbal insults, degrading jokes, unpleasant phrases with sexual context, intrusive courtship, touches, stroking and threats, blackmail. But at the same time there were facts of beating of women, strangulation, coercion to sexual acts, attempted rape and rape.

Table 9

The cases of gender-based violence towards women by the police to which were subjected the friends and relatives of the police officers

	Number of cases
Insults, jokes, comments directed at emphasizing the inferiority of women	76
Internet stalking with the aim of establishing relationship	12
Unpleasant phrases with sexual context	42
Intrusive courtship, touching, grabbing, stroking	24
Spying, coercion to undress	3
Undressing, demonstration of genitals	2
Threats, blackmail	29
Coercion to sexual acts	2
Forced holding in the premises	9
Beating, strangulation	16
Attempted rape	1
Rape	2
TOTAL	218

Taking into account that traditionally among the most victimized groups of women who are subjected to gender-based violence in the police there are those who belong to the least socially protected segments of the population (persons with addictions, minors, people with criminal past, sexual workers and others), the number of such cases can reach completely different scale which is necessary to research.

On 28 February 2020 an operative from the sector of criminal police of Torez police department in Donetsk region as a part of investigative task force arrived after a call with the report about a fight in one of the private houses. On that address the policeman was met by two men and a woman who tried to clarify the aim of the arrival of the law-enforcement officers. In a response the operative hit a woman in the face with the metal butt of his assault rifle, because of that she sat on the ground. As a result the victim received minor severity injuries.

According to the site of State Bureau of Investigations

The most impressive indicator of the spread of gender-based violence in the police was the data about the cases when the female police officers became the victims (table 10). Thus, within the sample during the survey we found 318 such cases which evidences the spread of the phenomenon. Thus, today a woman serving in the police is subjected to the risk of being insulted verbally or physically.



Table 10

The cases of gender-based violence and discrimination towards women to which the female police officers were subjected during their service

	Number of cases
Insults, jokes, comments directed at emphasizing the inferiority of women	123
Unlawful dismissal of women from the police (during maternity leave or under pressure)	12
Restriction of the professional growth of women in the police	70
Unpleasant phrases with sexual context	57
Intrusive courtship, touching, grabbing, stroking	24
Spying, coercion to undress	5
Undressing, demonstration of genitals	3
Threats, blackmail	15
Coercion to sexual acts	2
Forced holding in the premises	3
Beating, strangulation	3
Attempted rape	1
TOTAL	318

Based on the received data it can be stated that the event in Kaharlyk is not the only incident and women regularly become the victims of gender-based violence by the police. This problem requires more attention and the creation of a system of measures directed at the protection of women that contact the police and work in the police, etc.

4 RECOURSE

During the research we also asked Ukrainians about whom they will address seeking help in case of application of unlawful violence, torture or ill-treatment to them by the police. Almost every tenth (11,7%) at once said that they would not seek help in that case, because they are afraid of the consequences or do not see the point (figure 20).

Most of the respondents (47,7%) indicated that they would address the prosecutor's office and higher instances in the police (44,3%). Less than a third (29,8%) also considers the possibility to address a lawyer, and 18% — media and human rights organizations.

It should be noted that the State Bureau of Investigations is addressed in case of violence only by 5,9 % of the respondents. It is also weird that that the Commissioner for Human Rights is seen as a potential source of help only by 6,3 % of the respondents (figure 21).

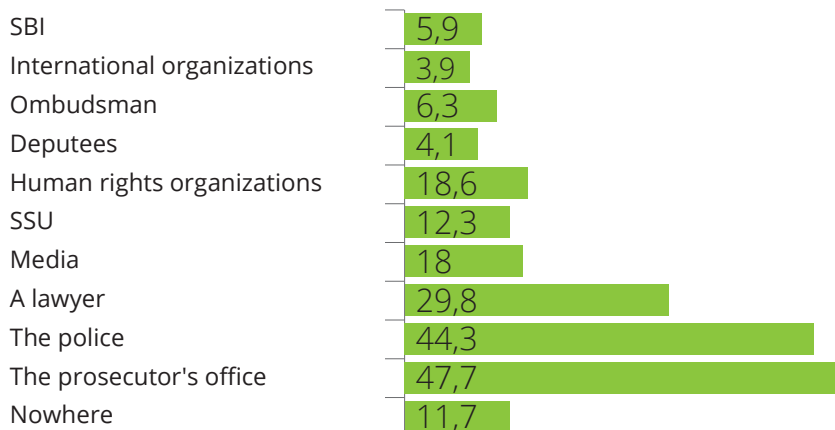


Figure 20. Whom will Ukrainians address with complaints in case if they become victims of unlawful violence in the police (in %)

But the reality of the victims of torture in the police is somewhat different: despite the creation of the special agency (SBI) and a department in the prosecutor's office whose activity is partially directed at overcoming the violence in the police, the unlawful violence in the police remains a very latent phenomenon. As before, most of the victims never report about such cases and even wish to avoid the discussions with interviewers about that during the research. The results of the 2020 monitoring indicate that even among the persons whose rights were violated by the police, most (72,9%) did not file official complaints. Among those who decided to protect their rights 13,3% addressed the prosecutor's office, and 11,9% — the higher bodies of the police. The same number (11,9%) addressed a lawyer. Only 5,1% of the victims addressed SBI directly (figure 21).

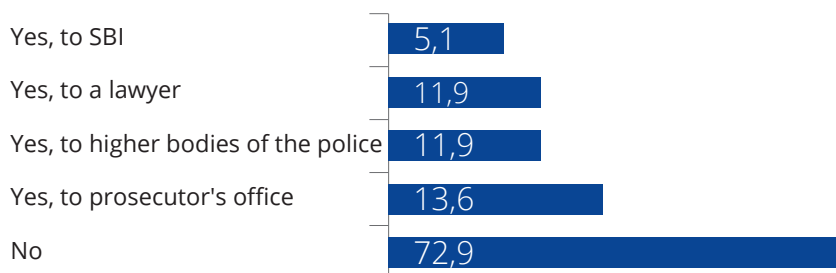


Figure 21. Did the victims of unlawful violence in the police file the complaints (in %, there was the possibility to choose several options)

For most of those who sought help it was only partially efficient — that was indicated by 36,4%. Almost for every fifth the application was not efficient (22,7%), and for 9,1% it only worsened the situation. 22,7% of those who sought help did not receive it at all. Only 9% indicated that they received effective help.

5 ATTITUDE TOWARDS UNLAWFUL VIOLENCE IN THE POLICE

One of the most important factors that influence the spread of tortures and violence in the police is the attitude of the society towards this phenomenon. As far back as in 2015 our monitoring fixed the stop of the ten-year trend of increase of intolerance to violence in the police. Then (and later in 2017) we pointed out that the number of Ukrainians who accepted violence in the police was gradually growing. That trend led to the fact that in 2018 almost every third Ukrainian (31,8%) in one way or another accepted the possibility of use of unlawful violence in the police or even torture.

However, high-profile cases related to tortures in the police which occurred in 2020 actually made people wake up and reconsider their attitude to this phenomenon. In 2020 the number of Ukrainians who do not tolerate unlawful violence in the police was record-breaking and constituted 79,1%, which is the highest indicator for the entire period of research (figure 22).

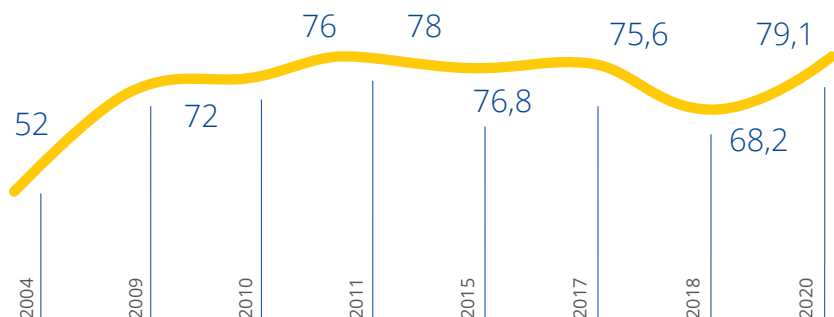


Figure 22. The number of Ukrainians who believe that the use of beatings, bullying or torture by the police officers for the purpose of detecting or investigating crimes IS UNACCEPTABLE (in %)

At the same time it should be noted that 14,9% of the respondents still accept the use of torture and unlawful violence *"in extreme cases"*; 5,4% — *"to particular persons"* (terrorists and the people suspected of crimes against children). A small number of people (1,1%) believe that the work of the police is impossible without it.

Those who justify the use of tortures, bullying and beatings in the police activity most often support such measures for the *"solving of especially serious crimes"* (45,8%) and for the *"prevention of a terrorist act"* (34,5%) (table 11).

Also, a certain number of respondents see the violence as a mean of *"punishment and vengeance to the rapists and murderers"* (29,3%) or the criminals who were caught red-handed (22,8%). The unlawful violence in the police is the least supported if it is used for a quick solving or for improvement of the indicators of activity.

2020 the number of Ukrainians
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79,1%



Table 11

The opinion of the Ukrainians concerning when and against whom it is possible to use tortures, bullying or beatings (the distribution of answers of only those respondents who believe it acceptable)

Cause	The share of respondents, in %
To solve especially serious crimes (murders, rape, crimes against the children etc)	45,8
As a punishment and vengeance to the murderers and rapists	29,3
When it is impossible to prove the guilt of the suspect without it	6,4
If a criminal was caught red-handed	22,8
For quick solving of a crime	4,6
To improve the indicators of solving of crimes	2,7
As a temporary measure for fighting crime	6,9
As a temporary measure during hostilities	5,3
For the prevention of a terrorist act	34,5
For the termination of activity of persons prone to committing crimes	16,4
In the work with people suspected of separatism and hostilities against Ukraine	11,4
To maintain order in a pre-trial detention center	14,2

Most of the interviewed police officers also believe that the use of beatings, bullying and torture by police officers for the purpose of solving and investigation of crimes is unacceptable under any circumstances. There are more patrol police officers with such opinion (79,1%) than other police officers (71,4%) (figure 23).

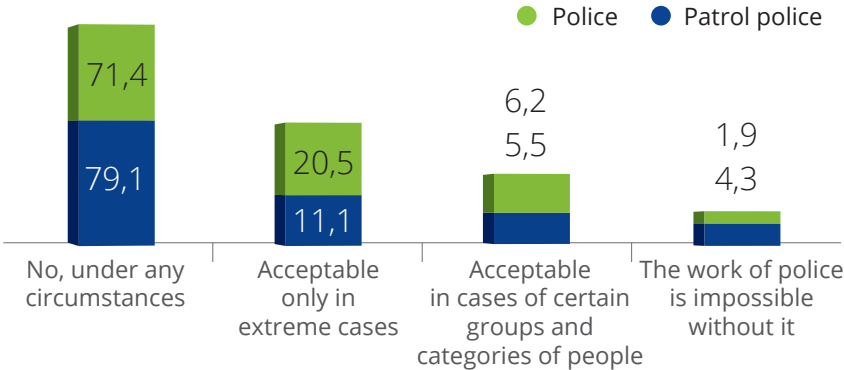


Figure 23. The opinion of the police officers about the acceptability of the use of tortures, bullying or beating for the purpose of solving and investigating a crime (in %)

At the same time, every ninth patrol police officer believes that unlawful violence is acceptable “in extreme cases”, this indicator is higher among other police officers — every fifth officer believes so. A small number of police officers believes that without tortures and bullying their work is impossible (among patrol police officers — 1,9%, among other police officers — 4,3%).

Those police officers who believe that tortures, bullying or beating for the purpose of solving and investigating a crime are acceptable in the work of the police mostly justify it with the solving of especially serious crimes (56,7%) (figure 24).

	Patrol police	Police
To solve especially serious crimes (murders, rape, crimes against children, kidnapping etc)	68,2	45,4
As a punishment and vengeance to rapists and murderers	23,2	23,4
For the prevention of a terrorist act	21,1	19,6
In the work with persons suspected of separatism and participants of hostilities against Ukraine	12,5	15,1
To terminate the criminal activity of the persons prone to committing crimes	12,8	14,4
As a temporary measure for fighting crime	8,3	12
When a criminal was caught «red-handed» and it is apparent that he is guilty	18,7	11,7
As a temporary measure during hostilities	8	11,3
To maintain order in a pre-trial detention center	8,7	6,2
When it is impossible to prove guilt without it	7,6	4,8
For a quick solving of crimes	7,3	4,1
To improve the indicators of solving of crimes	1,7	3,4
Other	2,1	1,7

Figure 24. The opinion of the police officers about the acceptability of the use of beatings or tortures in their work (in % to those who believe it acceptable)

It should be noted that it is mostly an argument of the patrol police (68,2 than of other police officers (45,4%). In both groups of police officers there were much fewer of those who chose: punishment and vengeance to the rapists and murderers" as motives for unlawful violence (23,3%), "prevention of a terrorist act" (20,3%), "work with people suspected of separatism and participants of hostilities against Ukraine" (13,8%) and "termination of criminal activity of the persons prone to committing crimes" (13,6%). Police officers are the least likely to justify the beatings and bullying of the detained for the purpose of "quick solving of crimes" (5,7%) and for the "improvement of indicators of crime solving" (2,6%).

ASSESSMENT OF FEARS OF UNLAWFUL VIOLENCE IN THE POLICE

Long-term monitoring allows to state that the number of media reports about unlawful violence or bullying in the police is cyclical and increases in case of resonant events, and then decreases again in accordance with the decrease of interest by the society. There is a stereotypical opinion that the criminals risk the most to become the victims of violence by the police officers, but, unfortunately, this is not the case. The potential risk still exists practically for everyone which deprives a person of the possibility to build any conduct strategy for the protection from the possibility of being subjected to beating and tortures. Furthermore, this supports constant distrust, worries and fear concerning the police in general.

The attitude of most of Ukrainians to the danger of becoming a victim of unlawful violence in the police is actually unchanged, which is confirmed by the results of the 2020 research. Thus, only 5,5% believe that nobody is at risk. Most of the respondents (59,7%) still believe that **no one is safe from police violence**. The risk group also in the first place includes those who insults the police (27,2% respondents), professional criminals (22,0%) or those who committed any crime (25,6%) (table 12).

It should also be noted, that according to the respondents, for several years the danger of becoming a victim of unlawful violence by the police grows for such categories as public activists (10,1%), minors (8,8%), participants of mass events (11,4%). The risks directly connected to armed conflict in the East of Ukraine,— for such categories as Russian citizens, the residents of the settlements of Donetsk and Luhansk regions or those suspected of separatism,— remain small or decrease, according to the respondents.

Table 12

The opinion of the population about who should worry about becoming a victim of unlawful violence in the police (in %)

Category	2009	2010	2011	2015	2017	2020
Only professional criminals, recidivists	13,2	12,4	13,5	16,3	26,3	22,0
Any person who committed a crime	16,9	13,9	21,6	21,6	26,4	25,6
Homeless people, drunks, vagrants	12,2	9,8	16,7	15,1	13,8	17,8
Minors	4,5	5,0	7,9	4,6	6,4	8,8
Those who provoke or offend police officers	16,8	20,8	27,8	22,5	26,3	27,2
People suspected of committing a serious crime	10,8	11,8	15,5	15,1	18,1	17,1
Any suspect	12,0	13,1	19,5	17,3	12,6	12,5
Participants of mass events	–	–	–	8,6	10,8	11,4
People suspected of separatism	–	–	–	9,6	12,2	7,2
Public activists	–	–	–	4,8	6,5	10,1
Poor people	9,7	7,0	14,3	9,1	7,7	11,9
Residents of populated areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions	–	–	–	2,5	2,2	1,2
Representatives of national minorities	–	–	–	3,2	1,6	3,1
Russian citizens	–	–	–	2,1	1,7	1,2
No one is safe from that	61,6	66,1	60,7	55,5	44,7	59,7
No one is at risk	2,5	1,8	1,5	1,4	3,2	5,5

The police officers themselves have a completely different idea of this. In general about a half of interviewed police officers believe that nobody is at risk of torture and ill-treatment by the police; at the same time this opinion is more common among the police officers (55,5%) than among patrol officers (44,9%) (figure 25). Patrol officers (16,9%) more than other police officers (10,6%) are prone to believing that people who provoke and insult them should worry about ill-treatment. There are almost no other differences in the opinions of patrol officers and other police officers. In both groups there are police officers who believe that professional criminals and recidivists should be afraid of ill-treatment (patrol police — 11,9%, other police — 9%), people suspected of committing a serious crime (7,4% and 5,5% accordingly), any person who committed a crime (5,9% and 4% accordingly). There are almost no respondents who distinguished the groups of population by age, gender, financial state, nationality etc.

An interesting fact is that although most of the police officers believe that no one is at risk of unlawful violence, at the same time “those who provoke and offend the police officers” were mentioned among the people who should be worried and that “no one is safe from it”. In fact, this coincides with the opinion of the population which most often chose those alternatives in this question.

	Police	Patrol police
No one is at risk	55,5	44,9
No one is safe from it	12,5	10,3
Hard to tell	11,9	19,2
Those who provoke or offend police officers	10,6	16,9
Only professional criminals, recidivists	9	11,9
Persons suspected of serious crimes	5,5	7,4
Any person who committed a crime	4	5,9
Homeless people, drunks, vagrants	2,7	3
People suspected of separatism	1,9	2,8
Poor people	1,4	1,2
Women	1,4	1,1
Members of mass events	1,3	2,5
Men	1,1	1,1
Public activists	0,8	2,3
Representatives of national minorities	0,6	1,4
Minors	0,6	0,7
Any suspect	0,3	0,7

Figure 25 The opinion of the police officers about who should fear to be a victim of unlawful violence in the police (in %)

7 CAUSES OF UNLAWFUL VIOLENCE IN THE POLICE OF UKRAINE AND THE WAYS OF SOLVING THE PROBLEM

The opinion of the population about the causes of unlawful violence by the police officers is a very important indicator which, if used, allows the management of MIA of Ukraine, National Police and Prosecutor General's office to receive the feedback about their activity and plan further work with both staff and population.

The factors which, according to the population, have the greatest impact on the spread of beatings, bullying and torture in the work of police, remain unchanged for years, among them the citizens first of all distinguish three main ones:

1. **impunity of the police officers who use unlawful methods in their work (55,7 %);**
2. **poor recruitment, as a result of which the people with sadistic tendencies work in the police (47,3 %);**
3. **low professional and cultural level of the police officers (39,4 %) (table 13).**



Table 13

The opinion of the population about the main causes of unlawful physical and psychological violence in the police (in %)

	2009	2010	2011	2015	2017	2020
Impunity of the officers who violated the laws	53	54	53	41	43,5	55,7
Poor professional selection	43	42	43	40	34,7	47,3
Low professional and cultural level of police officers	38	45	39	37	30,5	39,4
The existence of indicators in the reporting	28	25	30	29	22,5	24,6
Weak control of the management	21	23	27	20	21,2	30,0
Imperfection of legislation	18	28	23	17	22,4	26,0
Tradition in the work of police	18	19	17	24	28,1	24,6
Inaction of the prosecutor's office	12	15	14	9	12,3	13,7
Violations of rights of the police officers themselves	10	11	9	9	9,3	9,6
The increase of crime rate	9	16	12	8	13,6	4,7
The courts accept evidence received as a result of torture	8	10	13	8	9,5	9,9
Because of the war in the country	–	–	–	4	4,4	4,7
Due to lack of effective advocacy	–	–	–	7	9,3	9,2

It should be noted that the significance of those factors is increasing rather than decreasing. At the same time the confidence of the citizens in the fact that the use of violence in the police is influenced by weak control by the management of the police (30%), inactivity of the prosecutor's office (13,7 and imperfection of the legislation (26%) also grows.

The police officers themselves mentioned imperfection of the legislation (patrol police — 27,2%, other police officers — 22,5%) and the violations of their rights (patrol police — 29,6%, other police officers — 20%) among the main causes of the use of beatings, bullying and tortures (figure 26). 16,5% of the police officers, unlike the patrol officers, also mentioned that the system of indicators in the reporting forces them to to that. The lack of effective advocacy and legal defense, weak control of other police officers over the activity of their subordinates and the judges accepting evidence received as a result of torture, are almost never considered the causes of existence of unlawful violence in the police. It should be noted that among the patrol officers there are fewer of those who believe that beatings and tortures are a long standing tradition (6,8%), than among other police officers (10,9%). Every third interviewed persons hesitated to answer that question.

the use of violence in the police is influenced by weak control by the management of the police



	Police	Patrol police
Because the courts accept the evidence received under torture	1	0,8
Because of the weak control of the higher police officers over the activity of their subordinates	2,3	3
Because of lack of effective advocacy and legal defence	2,5	1,4
Other	2,5	2,3
Due to impunity of the police officers who use unlawful means in their work	2,7	2,5
Because of inefficiency of SBI and prosecutor's office	5	2
Due to low professional and cultural level	9,5	10,1
This is a long standing tradition	10,9	6,8
Because of rise of crime rate	12,2	11,1
Due to poor selection of candidates, when people with sadistic tendencies get into the police	14,7	13,9
Because of the system of indicators and reporting	16,5	0,1
Because the rights of the police officers themselves are violated	20	29,6
Due to imperfection of legislation	22,5	27,2
Hard to tell	30,2	41,4

Figure 26 The opinion of the police officers about the main causes of unlawful physical and psychological violence in the police (in %)

In the opinions about what exactly needs to be done to prevent the unlawful violence in the police the population for years distinguishes the same action. However, unfortunately, neither Verkhovna Rada, nor the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Prosecutor General's office, or State Bureau of Investigations can set up systemic work in the indicated directions. Thus, the people believe that the situation can be improved with certain internal actions:

1. a stricter punishment of the police officers for the facts of unjustified violence, ill-treatment and torture (56,9 % of the answers);
2. improvement of selection of candidates for police work (45,5 %);
3. improvement of training of police officers (35,6 %) and increase of the efficiency of the management's control over the activity of the subordinates (39,9 %) (table 14).

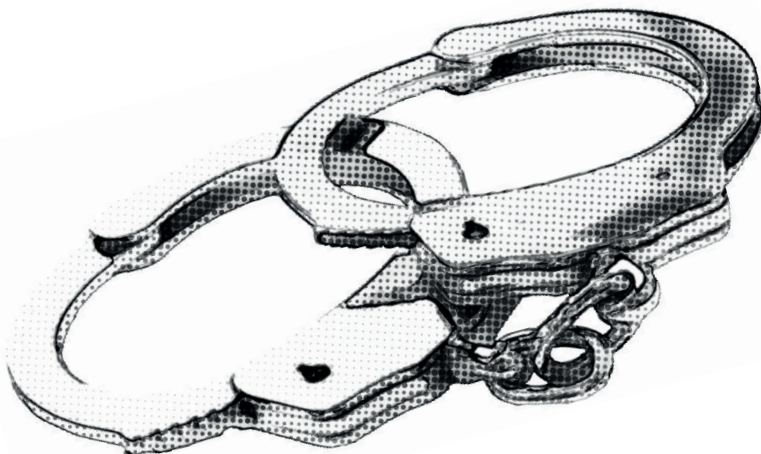


Table 14

The opinion of the population on the measures for prevention and elimination of unlawful physical and psychological violence in the police activity (in %)

	2004	2009	2010	2011	2015	2017	2020
Nothing needs to be done, because such problem does not exist	2	1	2	1	1	2	1
Nothing needs to be done because there is a war in the country	-	-	-	-	2	5	3,9
The problem is impossible to eliminate	9	6	6	7	4	2	2
The rights of the police officers should be observed	-	8	12	8	8	10	13
Improve the legal education of the population	-	22	26	24	14	16	19,4
Change the system of the indicators	15	24	16	25	17	18	16,6
Improve control by the public organizations and media	14	19	23	24	22	24	24,7
Improve control by the management	23	31	34	44	24	32	39,9
Improve supervision by the prosecutor's office	20	27	22	26	25	23	27,4
Improve professional training	40	31	43	37	30	34	35,6
Reform the judiciary	-	-	-	-	31	21	27,5
Improve the professional selection	50	39	50	48	37	35	45,5
Punish the persons guilty of tortures and unlawful violence more strictly	52	56	48	50	40	46	56,9

The second most important is the group of actions of external pressure on the police system: thus, the need to reform the judiciary was indicated by 27,5%; the introduction of control by public organizations and media — by 24,7%; the improvement of prosecutorial control — by 27,4%. The number of pessimistic citizens who believe that nothing needs to be done still gradually decreases.

The opinion of the police officers on this problem is almost completely different from the opinion of the citizens. Thus, the observance of rights of police officers themselves is mentioned among the main ways of overcoming the unlawful violence (28,4%) as well as complete change of the system of indicators and reporting in the activity of the police (21,2%), in particular, the latter was emphasized mostly by the police officers and not the patrol officers (figure 27).



	Police	Patrol Police	Total
Observe the rights of the police officers in full	23,2	30,5	28,4
Hard to tell	24,3	27,7	26,7
Fully change the system of the indicators and reporting in the police activity	25,8	19,3	21,2
Nothing needs to be done because such problem does not exist	19,4	18,2	18,6
Improve the selection of candidates for police work	13,8	18,6	17,2
Reform the judiciary to make it assess the evidence in the criminal cases in a stricter way	11,8	16,7	15,3
Improve the legal education and awareness of the population	12	15,6	14,5
Improve the training of the police officers	11,2	11,5	11,4
Improve the efficiency of the control of higher police officers over the activity of their subordinates	3,1	4,2	3,9
Punish the police officers more strictly for cruelty, tortures and facts of unjustified violence	3,1	3,4	3,3
Other	3	2,9	2,9
Nothing needs to be done because it is impossible to eliminate this problem	3,1	1,8	2,2
Improve the supervision over the observance of lawfulness in the police activity b SBI and prosecutor's office	1,5	1,4	1,4
Establish control over the police activity by the public, public organizations and media	1,2	1,1	1,1
Nothing needs to be done while there is a war in the country	1,2	0,9	1

Figure 27 The opinion of the police officers about the ways of overcoming of unlawful physical and psychological violence towards the detained, suspects or accused (in %)

18,6 % of the police officers pointed out that nothing needs to be done, since such problem does not exist. The improvement of supervision over the observance of lawfulness in police activity by the SBI and the prosecution (1,4 %) and the creation of control over the police activity by the public, public organizations and the media (1,1 %) were the least mentioned as the ways of overcoming the problem. In a quarter of cases the police officers hesitated to answer (26,7 %).

FINDINGS

1. Most of the respondents assessed the police as inefficient — it was indicated by 56,2 %. It should be noted that in comparison with 2018 national research the number of people dissatisfied with the police increased by 3,5 %.
2. Among the police officers the police reform is considered successful only by every third patrol policeman (32 %) and 13,9 % of the representatives of other police units. The number of people who believe the reform to be a failure is greater among the police in general (58,5 %), and among patrol officers (37,7 %). Almost every fourth said that the reform is not finished yet.
3. The research demonstrated the total spread of overwork of the police officers and the lack of compensation for it. Most of all interviewed police officers in one way or another do not believe their wages to be sufficient for support of normal level of living (patrol officers — 93,8 %, other police officers — 93,9 %). Most police officers do not have their own residence (patrol officers — 62,6 %, other police officers — 54,9 %). The above-mentioned work conditions force most of the police officers to consider resignation, in particular, every fifth officer plans to resign within a year (patrol officers — 22,3 %, other police officers — 17,8 %). Like ten years ago, the rights of the police officers to decent work conditions are constantly violated, their satisfaction with work decreases, the people burn out and it becomes a significant factor of neglect of citizens' rights in the future.
4. In 2020 once again no systemic measures were taken to improve the situation — neither the changes in law enforcement activity, nor the changes in the system of indicators. The system of investigation of cases of unlawful violence in the police was not changed, neither was the system of professional selection and training of the police officers.

5. Assessing the general tendencies of unlawful violence (beatings, tortures, intimidation) in the police, most of the respondents (51,8 %) indicated that they believed such cases spread. After a small decrease in the number of such cases in 2018 the scale of this phenomenon returned to the indicators of past years and constituted over 698 000 a year. The estimated number of cases of beating and infliction of bodily injuries *during the arrest* has also increased and constituted, accordingly, 559 140, and the number of cases of use of unlawful violence during the investigation doubled and constituted 419 355 cases a year. At the same time almost 100 000 people are subjected to various kinds of tortures (ranging from hurting and torture with thirst or non-provision of medical assistance) every year.
6. Dozens of police officers from among those who got in the sample said that in recent 12 months they witnessed the cases of beatings, infliction of suffering and torture many times, and 78 — that those happened once. The police officers who witnessed the ill-treatment said that most often the victims are subjected to beatings, bodily injuries, insults and degrading treatment. However, at the same time the opinion of the police officers about the spread of unlawful violence is significantly different from the opinion of the population. Thus, it is considered “very widespread” by less than one percent of the police officers, and the number of those who believe that the violence is rather spread does not exceed 5 %. Over a half of the police workers believe that unlawful violence in the police is not a spread phenomenon.
7. The most important factor that influences the spread of unlawful violence in the police is the *lack of system of effective investigation of such cases, as well as the lack of full and objective statistical data about that phenomenon*. The current system of data collection is locked on the state authorities which work in the conditions of the conflict of interests. Most of the persons whose rights were violated by the police (72,9 %) never filed

official complaints. Thus, the system of investigation and collection of complaints about the police is not trusted and used. Therefore the work of the State Bureau of Investigations and Prosecutor General's Office cannot be called efficient — they work with a small number of cases of violence and do not even know the full picture.

8. A significant part of society (59,7 %) believes that practically any person on the territory of Ukraine regardless of their past and personal characteristics is at risk of becoming a victim of torture or ill-treatment in the police. The police officers themselves have a completely different opinion on this. In total around a half of interviewed police officers believe that nobody risks tortures and ill-treatment by the police, this opinion is more popular among the police officers (55,5 %), than patrol officers (44,9 %).
9. Comparative analysis of the data of 2004–2020 researches shows that after resonant events in Kaharlyk the intolerance of the population to the cases of torture or other ill-treatment in Ukrainian police increased greatly and constitutes 79,1 %. This is the highest indicator for the entire period of research. At the same time it should be noted that 14,9 % of the respondents accept the use of unlawful violence in extreme cases, 5,4 % — against particular persons (terrorists and persons suspected of crimes against children). A small number of people (1,1 %) believe that the work of the police is impossible without it.
10. Most of the interviewed police officers believe that the use of beatings, bullying or torture by the police officers with the aim of solving and investigating the crimes is unacceptable under any circumstances. There are somewhat more patrol officers with such position (79,1 %) than other police officers (71,4 %). At the same time every ninth patrol officer believes that unlawful violence is acceptable “in extreme cases”; this indicator is higher among the police officers — every fifth officer believes so.

11. The indicators that contribute the most to the spread of the practice of unlawful violence in the activity of Ukrainian police, according to the respondents, are: 1) impunity of the police officers who use unlawful methods in their work; 2) poor selection of the candidates; 3) low professional and cultural level of police officers.
12. To prevent the unlawful violence in the police the respondents suggest : 1) a stricter punishment of the police officers for the facts of unjustified violence, cruelty, torture; 2) improvement of the selection of candidates for police work; 3) improvement of the training of police officers and improvement of efficiency of management control over the activity of the subordinates. Among the main ways of overcoming the unlawful violence the police officers themselves indicated the observance of rights of the police officers (28,4 %) and a complete change of the system of indicators and reporting in the police activity (21,2 %), and the latter was mostly emphasized by police officers and not patrol officers.
13. There are significant additional risks of police violence against women, in particular it concerns those who contact the police as a suspect or witness, as well as female police officers. During the survey of the population we have detected 110 cases (6,8 %), when the police officers subjected women to gender-based violence in one form or another. Selective survey of men and women working in the police allowed to detect over two hundred cases of women becoming the victims of gender-based violence by the police officers. But it is apparent that the scale of this phenomenon is much wider.

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